GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:114
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2007
IRREGULARITIES IN PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
Adityanath Yogi Shri

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints of irregularities in the Public Distribution System from various parts of the country especially from Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to conduct a detailed enquiry through an independent group or Central Agency into the foodgrain scams; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a), (b), (c) & (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 114 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 20.08.2007 IN THE LOK SABHA.

(a), (b), (c) & (d): TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of Government of India and State/UT Governments. The Government of India carries out procurement of foodgrains for the TPDS, their storage, transportation and allocation to the State/UT Governments. The responsibility for allocation of foodgrains within the State, identification of eligible families and issuance of ration cards to them, and supervision of distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible families through the fair price shops rests with the State/UT Governments.

The State/UT Governments are mandated to ensure that the foodgrains allocated under the TPDS reach the targeted families and no leakages/diversions take place.

Complaints about functioning of TPDS in different States and UTs keep coming to the Government. Whenever such complaints are received, they are sent to the concerned State/UT Governments directing them to conduct inquiries into the complaints and take appropriate action required under the law. Complaints were also received about functioning of TPDS in Uttar Pradesh, particularly, in the district of Lakhimpur Khiri and Siddhartnagar. The complaints received were sent to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for necessary inquiry and required corrective action.

As reported by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, complaints about irregularities in functioning of TPDS in 54 districts in the State received by it have recently been handed over by the State Government for inquiry and required further action to a Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted for this purpose. This SIT is presently inquiring into the complaints.

Since the State Government has already entrusted the inquiry into these complaints in the 54 districts to the SIT and the investigation is in progress, the Government of India does not propose to conduct any additional inquiry through any other independent group or Central Agency.